

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1667

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRANSIT VISIT OF KHARTOUM

REF: STATE 93221

1. I DISCUSSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRETARY'S TRANSIT VISIT
TODAY, APRIL 12, WITH FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY HASHIM OSMAN.

2. SCENARIO IS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
SECRETARY AND HIS OFFICIAL PARTY WILL BE GREETED AT RAMP
BY VICE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER RASHID AL TAHIR AND
MYSELF AND WIFE. (IT IS WIDELY RUMORED IN KHARTOUM THAT
PRESIDENT NIMEIRI IS SPENDING HIS WEEK OF "CONTEMPLATION"
IN MAURITIUS).

AMERICAN PERSONNEL WHO WISH TO BE AT AIRPORT WILL BE
LINED UP AT PLAESIDE AND SECRETARY AND MRS. VANCE MAY WISH
TO WALK DOWN THE LINE TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THEM. SUDANESE
PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA WILL BE THERE AND SUDANGOV HOPES THAT
SECRETARY WILL MAKE BRIEF NON-SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT AT THAT
TIME. (SUGGESTED OUTLINE OF SUCH STATEMENT APPEARS BELOW).

QUESTIONS TO SECRETARY BY PRESS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED.

PARTY WILL THEN PROCEED TO NEARBY PRESIDENTIAL VIP
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ROOM WHERE COLD AND HOT DRINKS AND PROBABLY COOKIES
WILL BE SERVED. WHEN SECRETARY'S PLANE IS READY, SECRETARY
WILL TAKE LEAVE OF VP AND FONMIN WHO WILL ESCORT HIM BACK TO
THE RAMP.

3. I INFORMED OSMAN OF MIDNIGHT REFUELING STOP APRIL 18. WE
AGREED THAT SENIOR SUDANESE PROTOCOL OFFICIAL WOULD BE THERE

AS WELL AS MYSELF AND SMALL NUMBER OF EMBASSY STAFF TO HANDLE ANY CONTINGENCIES THAT MIGHT ARISE.

4. I SUGGEST THAT IN HIS STATEMENT TO PRESS SECRETARY MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) HE IS HAPPY TO VISIT, EVEN SO BRIEFLY, THE LARGEST COUNTRY IN AFRICA WHICH HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD'S FOOD PROBLEM.

(B) AMERICAN PEOPLE ADMIRE SUDAN'S AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(C) AMERICAN PEOPLE ALSO ADMIRE WISE POLICIES OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRI FOR RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL UNITY AT HOME, SUPPORT FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS, AND SUDAN'S DESIRE FOR GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH ALL THE STATES IN ITS REGION.

5. UNDER SECRETARY CONFIRMED TO ME THAT VP AND FONMIN WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OTHER THAN SOUTHERN AFRICA INCLUDING SITUATION IN HORN AND US-SUDANESE BILATERAL RELATIONS. I THINK TALKING POINTS SET FORTH IN PARA 3 REFTEL ARE EXCELLENT AND WOULD SUGGEST ONLY TWO SLIGHT CHANGES.

6. AS TO PENULTIMATE TALKING POINT, SUDANESE (PARTICULARLY VP AND FONMIN) SOMEWHAT RESENT FACT THAT US PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS HAVE NOT BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING INVESTMENT AND AID IN THE SUDAN BUT APPEAR TO PREFER CONFIDENTIAL

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PIGGY-BACKING ON INVESTMENTS MADE BY WEALTHY ARABS. IF POSSIBLE I WOULD AT LEAST LIKE SECRETARY TO SAY THAT USG PREPARED TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN IMF AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN IN ITS PRESENT TEMPORARY FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEN I SUGGEST THAT THE WORD "ARAB" BE DELETED FROM THIS TALKING POINT, WHICH WOULD THEN READ QUOTE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE IMF AND SUDAN'S SUPPORTERS...UNQUOTE.

7. SECONDLY, IN FINAL TALKING POINT, I WOULD PREFER THAT THE SECRETARY NOT USE THE FIGURE OF 24.2 MILLION FOR OUR PROPOSED BILATERAL AID FOR FY-79. ON THE ONE HAND, WE ARE NOT SURE THAT WE CAN GET OUR ACT TOGETHER ADEQUATELY TO FORMALLY COMMIT THAT SUM IN FY-79. ON THE OTHER, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT OPPORTUNITIES MAY ARISE WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO INCREASE OUR COMMITMENT TO AN AMOUNT SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THAT FIGURE. THE SECRETARY MIGHT MENTION THE 21.8 MILLION WE ARE PROVIDING THIS FY AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT A MODEST INCREASE IN THAT AMOUNT CAN BE ENVISAGED FOR FUTURE FISCAL YEARS. BERGUS

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